

Application No. 09/738,992

## REMARKS

The Office Action of February 23, 2004 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 1, 11, and 12 are independent claims.

This Amendment amends claims 1-20 and adds new claim 21 and 22. Support for those amendments other than matters of form is found in the Applicant's specification at page 5, lines 25-27 and page 6, lines 7-9 and in Figures 1-5.

### 1. Response to Rejection Under 35 USC 103

The Office Action, on pages 2-5, rejects claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14-17, and 19-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carleton et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,781,727 (hereinafter referred to as "Carleton") in view of Tran, U.S. Patent No. 6,054,994. In addition, the Office Action, on pages 5-6 rejects claims 2, 7, 13, and 18, under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carleton in view of Tran and further in view of Levine et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,680,636 (hereinafter referred to as "Levine").

Carleton describes a system which permits annotations made by users at remote computers to appear on the displays of other participants. More specifically, Carleton describes a system where an application program can run on a single computer, yet remote participants can issue commands to the program. Further, participants can make annotations on their displays, which are copied by the system onto the displays of other participants. (See Abstract of Carleton.)

Tran discloses a computer system with handwriting annotation. The system has object classification and recognition capability that allows objects hand-sketches by a user to be converted into CAD-like drawings. Further, the system can be used in conjunction with a camera to annotate pictures taken with the camera. (See Abstract and Summary of The Invention of Tran.)

Levine discloses a system adapted to display an annotated bitmap image of a document. The system has two views, a desk view and an annotation session view. The desk view emulates a user's desk, whereas the annotation view provides screen size document views of a document to be annotated or created using a stylus. (See

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Levine column 2 line 59 to column 3 line 45.)

In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention is directed at a system that enables users at different locations to work collaboratively on a paper document, and to view each other's annotations to the document. The system includes a plurality of workstations communicating with a server. Each workstation comprises a document-imaging device, such as a camera, for generating a digital image of the document. Handwritten annotations are identified by image processing, and new or additional annotations made by each user can be tracked. Images of the annotations are distributed by the server to each workstation so that each user can selectively view other user's annotations.

More specifically, in response to the rejection of independent claims 1, 11 and 12, Applicant amends these claims to more clearly set forth what is believed to be Applicant's invention in view of the references cited in the Office Action. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 12, which now recite that one or more annotations made at a plurality of workstations to a digital image of a document are *selectively* displayed at each workstation according to *display criteria* of the workstation at which they are displayed, are patentably distinguishable over Carlton taken singly or in combination with Tran and/or Levine.

Unlike Applicant's claimed invention set forth in independent claims 1, 11, and 12, Carleton discloses a system with several remote sites that operate a single host computer in which the creation of annotations and the issuing of commands can be blocked from replicating their annotations and/or commands to other computers to which a host is linked (i.e., blocking annotation by selecting "view mode", see column 3, lines 59-67 of Carleton). However, this disclosure of Carleton fails to disclose or suggest selectively displaying at each workstation, in accordance with its display criteria, a digital image of a document with one or more annotations entered at different workstations as claimed by Applicant.

That is, Carleton does not contemplate the annotation of imaged hardcopy documents and thus fails to disclose or suggest as claimed by Applicant, a collaborative system for annotating a document in which users annotations replicated on displays of other users are selectively displayed according to the display criteria of the workstation at which they are displayed (i.e., display criteria

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specific to the workstation at which they are displayed). Instead, Carleton concerns sharing the running of an application program on a host computer with several linked remote computers (where no selective display of different user input is suggested or disclosed). Furthermore, Carleton taken singly or in combination with Tran and/or Levine fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed invention, as Tran and/or Levine fail to disclose or suggest collaborative annotation of a document by users at multiple workstations.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 12 as amended are patentably distinguishable over Carlton taken singly or in combination with Tran and/or Levine. Insofar as claims 2-10 and 13-22 are concerned, these claims depend from one of now presumably allowable independent claims 1 or 12 and are also believed to be in allowable condition.

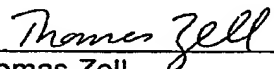
### 2. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submits concurrently herewith a supplemental information disclosure statement identifying erroneously omitted U.S. Patent number 5,384,863 identified on page 5 line 7 of Applicant's specification concerning a technique for discriminating machine printed symbols from handwritten annotations on the bases of image characteristics.

### 3. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby requested to call Attorney for Applicant(s), Thomas Zell.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Thomas Zell  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 37,481  
Telephone: 650-812-4282  
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